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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 13, 2000**

BORDER PATROL CHECKPOINTS PERFORM SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SAN DIEGO OPERATIONS

San Diego, California: Border Patrol Agents from the San Clemente and Temecula checkpoints have demonstrated that they are essential parts of the overall enforcement strategic plan. The strategic importance of checkpoints lies in their placement at various routes of egress from the immediate border, thus enabling the Border Patrol to provide a depth of defense and to effect broader border security throughout the border area.

The primary purpose of a checkpoint operation is to apprehend illegal entrants who have managed to evade apprehension at the immediate border and are attempting to travel to interior locations. Although the inspection of vehicular traffic for illegal entrants is the Border Patrol's main concern, agents assigned to this operation often encounter violators of other state and federal laws.

Since October 1, 1999, agents from the San Clemente and Temecula checkpoints have accounted for 9,139 arrests of undocumented migrants, down from 10,524 arrests this time last year. During this fiscal year, of the 775 narcotic seizures valued at \$30,122,309.87 in San Diego Sector, checkpoints accounted for 624 of those seizures valued at \$12,835,893.50. In addition, of the 16 currency seizures valued at \$92,937.93, San Clemente and Temecula have accounted for 14, valued at \$80,381.93. Furthermore, 17 weapons were recovered in San Diego Sector of which all were seized at San Clemente or Temecula checkpoints.

See page 2 for San Diego Sector seizure comparison

**San Diego Sector
Seizures Comparison
FY 2000**

